THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Though the Government has no authentic information about the number of Indian students going abroad for highr studies, with the economic and financial reforms set in motion by the Government, the students mobility across international boundaries has considerably increased during the recent years. The Goverment has taken cognisance of this development and with the twin objectives of promoting Indian education abroad and regulating operations of foreign educational institutions in India has recently constituted a committee called 'Committee for Promotion of Indian Education Abroad' (COPIE). One of the main functions of the COPIE is to develop, over a period of time, a sectoral policy on Foreign Direct Investment in the education sector.

Status of Central University to Sambalpur University

647. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sambalpur University at Jyoti Vihar in Orissa has not been granted the status of Central University, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the syndicate of Sambalpur University has been repeatedly requesting the Centre to confer this status; and

(c) if so, whether the Centre propose to review their decision; if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) A request of the Syndicate of the Sambalpur University, in this regard, was received through the Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University. This was, however, not agreed to because National Policy on Education (NPE) stipulates that, in view of the need to effect an all-round improvement in the institutions, the main emphasis will be on consolidation of and expansion of facilities in, the existing institution. Programme of Action (POA) also directs that, given the necessity to arrest the declining trend in the flow of plan funds from

UGC to State Universities and Colleges, the severe constraint of resources and the need to provide adequate infrastructure in the newly established Central Universities in the north-east, the Government should exercise restraint in setting up more Central Universities. In view of this, the Central Government, at present, is not in favour of converting existing State Universities/institutions into Central Universities.

(c) Question does not arise.

Increase in private schools

†648. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of private schools are increasing throughout the country;

(b) whether these schools are free to charge fees in an arbitrary manner;

(c) whether Government are considering to fix any criterion to control the arbitrariness of these private schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHABHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The control over the functioning of the Private Schools is largely the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments where the school is located. There is a provision in the Bye-laws of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE), that the fees charged by the schools should be commensurate with the facilities provided. CBSE has issued instructions for compliance of this provision.

Mid-day Meal

649. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.